



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,864	09/05/2003	Joseph Brian Gallick	206,194	7291

7590 03/24/2005
Abelman, Frayne & Schwab
150 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/655,864

Applicant(s)

GALLICK ET AL.

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a non-final first office action on the merits. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated
Stremler et al. (U.S. 2005/0033669).

3. As per claim 1, Stremler et al. teaches a method in a computer system for initiating and managing a volunteer group program that includes a plurality of volunteers, the method comprising:

providing an information menu of predetermined program goals to a user of the computer system (See paragraphs 0008-10, 0013, 0188, 0190-1, 0194, 0450, and 0655-8, wherein the system provides a menu to a user of stored program goals/purposes);

providing an interactive process to the user through the computer system to enable the user to select at least one of the program goals on the menu to pursue (See figure 1 and paragraphs 0008-10, 0192, 0195-7, 0603, 0640, 0645, wherein through an interactive process using the system, the user can select a program to pursue);

Art Unit: 3623

generating and outputting electronically, from the computer system, an organizational framework based on the at least one selected goal, with specific roles, responsibilities, and features needed to achieve the at least one selected goal (See paragraphs 0008-10, 0191, 0209-11, 0415, 0439, 0443, 0498, 0562, 0640-5, 0685-9, which discuss presenting electronically the organizational framework based on the selected goal, the framework having roles, responsibilities, and features needed to achieve the goal (money needed for a cause));

providing tools for:

recruiting additional volunteers (See paragraphs 0010, 0027, 0192, 0198, 0279, which discuss recruiting additional volunteers);

managing and scheduling the efforts of the additional volunteers (See paragraphs 0008-0010, 0013, 0209, 0447-0452, 0460-3, 0483, 0547-9, 0572-3, 0658, wherein the additional efforts are managed); and

communicating details related to progress of the volunteer group program to all interested parties (See paragraphs 0008, 0191, 0475, 0549, 0566-7, wherein progress details are communicated);

providing an option to the user to set a requirement of password access to control access of others to a World Wide Web site associated with the volunteer group program and accessible through the computer system (See figures 1, 4-5, and paragraphs 0341-52, 0371, 0401-2, 0527, 0606, 0665-9, wherein passwords are provided users of the website;

providing project timelines, procedures, content guidelines, examples, and editable copy from the computer system for use by the additional volunteers (See

Art Unit: 3623

paragraphs 0008-10, 0188, 0191-5, 0450, 0460-2, 0483-4, 0541-9, 0567-73, 0655-8, wherein timelines, procedures, content, examples, and editable material is provided);

providing promotional materials generated by the computer system to build awareness of the volunteer group program among potential new volunteers (See paragraphs 0010, 0027, 0192, 0198, 0279, which discusses brochures and promotional materials).

4. As per claim 2, Stremler et al. teaches wherein the tools are provided for use through the World Wide Web site accessible through the computer system (See figures 1, 4-5, paragraphs 0341-52, 0371, 0401-2, 0527, 0606, 0665-9, which disclose a website).

5. As per claim 3, Stremler et al. teaches wherein access to the tools are provided by telephone means (See paragraphs 0406, 0562, and 0674, which disclose phone numbers).

6. As per claim 6, Stremler et al. discloses a method further comprising:
providing a computer system reminder sub-routine to track tasks of the volunteer group program, and to generate and send reminder messages to responsible volunteers via communication means to insure that the tasks are not overlooked (See paragraphs 0191, 0255, 0383, 0435, 0461, 0475, 0549, 0573, wherein tasks are tracked and reminders are sent).

7. As per claim 7, Stremler et al. discloses a method further comprising:
providing a calendar subsystem of the computer system to list information on specific dates for which volunteer efforts are needed, and to publicize the work of volunteers up to a given date (See paragraphs 0008-10, 0188, 0191-5, 0450, 0460-2, 0483-4, 0541-9, 0567-73, 0655-8, which discusses project timelines).

8. As per claim 8, Stremler et al. teaches a method further comprising:

providing the computer system with a message board management system to manage the posting and viewing of messages to a message board server connected to the computer system which stores and maintains an electronic message board to enable users to publish information and statements of encouragement to the team and the individual or group which the team supports in performing the volunteer group program (See paragraphs 0191, 0285, 0455, 0512, 0552-5, 0572-5, 0658, which discusses an electronic journal and progress reports).

9. As per claim 9, Stremle~~r~~et al. teaches a method further comprising:

providing a World Wide Web or private network interface of the computer system to allow access to a Web site associated with the volunteer group program to provide information to Web site visitors regarding the volunteer group program (See figures 1 and 4-5, paragraphs 0008-10, 0188, 0190-4, 0450, and 0655-8, which discusses a web site with access).

10. As per claim 10, Stemler et al. discloses a method further comprising:

providing Internet-based access to computer system for Internet users with Internet access (See figures 1 and 4-5, paragraphs 0008-10, 0188, 0190-4, 0450, and 0655-8); and

providing telephone-based access to the computer system for telephone users without Internet access (See 0014, 0406, 0562, and 0674).

11. As per claim 11, Stremler et al. teaches a computer-based system for initiating and managing a volunteer group program, at least one communication device, and a computer connected to the communication device (See figures 1 and 4-5, paragraphs

Art Unit: 3623

0008-10, 0014, 0188-90, 0368). Claim 11 further recites limitations that are substantially similar to claim 1 and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

12. Claims 12-13 and 16-20 recite equivalent limitations to claims 2-3 and 6-10, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale applied above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-5 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stremler et al. (U.S. 2005/0033669).

14. As per claims 4 and 5, Stremler et al. discloses wherein the managing and scheduling of the efforts of the additional volunteers includes:

periodically checking previously posted and selected tasks for timely completion (See paragraphs 0191, 0255, 0383, 0461, 0475, 0549, 0573, wherein the timeliness and completion of tasks are monitored and managed); and

transmitting to a responsible volunteer team member a status of the tasks including the non-completed tasks (See paragraphs 0191, 0255, 0383, 0461, 0475, 0549, 0573, wherein a status and progress report is transmitted to members associated with the project and its tasks).

However, Stremler et al. does not expressly disclose sending a request for completion of a non-completed task.

Art Unit: 3623

Stremmer et al. discloses a computer-based system that manages the tasks of a philanthropic project and transmits to users status and progress information concerning the tasks and project, such as percentage of completion. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to send a request to a member to aid in the completion of a non-completed task or project in order to more efficiently and successfully manage the philanthropic project by not only notifying users of the needs of a project and its tasks, but also request action. See paragraphs 0191, 0435, 0461, 0549, 0573, which discuss progress reporting and reminders.

15. Claims 14-15 recite equivalent limitations to claims 4-5, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale applied above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sameh (U.S. 2004/0210457) discloses a web-based recruiting system that obtains volunteers for clinical trials.

Joao (U.S. 2002/0029163) discloses recruiting volunteers to aide in tasks related to a campaign and election.

Kido et al. (U.S. 2003/0167183) teaches a volunteer activity supporting, network-implemented tool.

Kido et al. (U.S. 2002/0116207) discloses a system that allows participants to register to engage in activities such as caring for the aged or sick.

Brain (U.S. 2004/0148178) discloses a service management system that tracks volunteers, tracks performance, schedules, and manages tasks.

Art Unit: 3623

Gruber et al. (U.S. 2003/0088455) discloses a web-based tool that increases the public awareness of a philanthropic organization.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (703) 305-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bvd

bvd

March 17, 2005


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER